

**Illinois Interagency Dispatch Center**  
[http://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/dispatch\\_centers/ILC/index.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/dispatch_centers/ILC/index.htm)  
**2012 End of the Year Report**



IL Interagency State Crew Mobilizing to CA  
(Photo courtesy of Tom Gargrave)

**Shawnee National Forest Service**  
**Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie**  
**Golconda Job Corps**  
**United States Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**United States National Park Service**  
**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**



## 2012 Year End

2012 started off like any other year, but by the time it was over we went through a devastating tornado, a slew of new employee's names we had to remember and pronounce, moved the entire dispatch center to a new facility, participated in a vast mobilization of resources to a hurricane, and witnessed a beautiful blizzard that dumped feet of snow. WHEW!

The move from our beloved building at Crab Orchard back to the comforts of home here at Murphysboro was tough. We loved that building, but due to things out of our control we needed to move, so in July, with the help of the fire crew and the cleanup efforts of forest employees, we got the building ready for us and with only a few bumps in the road we moved in. We are not exactly sure how long we will be here, but for now we will call the Murphysboro Work Center home.

With a summer move and a few other items on her plate Molly did not go out on a fire assignment but was selected to participate on the National ROSS Management Change Board representing the Eastern Area, she attended the M410 class with goals to host future dispatch training courses here in Southern Illinois and worked closely with Tom Wilson in returning the State's Incident Qualifications program to his agency. Jennifer continued with her position as the Eastern Area Wildcad representative, attended IQCS and NFDRS training sessions which will greatly help in career goals, successfully filled in as center manager when Molly was gone, and continued to participate as an officer in the local SPC union. Diana took two assignments, one to the Missouri-Iowa dispatch center and one to the Allegheny Dispatch Center where she worked on her IADP taskbook. Diana also got her RADO taskbook signed off as well as received entries into her EDSD taskbook. With any luck Diana will be signed off as a qualified EDSD and IADP in 2013.

The dispatch center once again housed and mobilized a National Radio Cache, provided back up for the Eastern Area Coordination Center when staff members were in training, meetings or attending National Workshops, increased the number of IL Department of Natural Resource RX managers who utilize the dispatch center during prescribed fire activities, and supported a record number of agency employees who participated on Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams. But one of the things we are most proud of this year is the activation and participation of Job Corps. Instead of focusing on fire operations, we focused on the development and support for a Wildland Fire Camp Crew. 74 Job Corps Students stepped up to the call and 5 staff members participated. I'm happy to say we were able to mobilize the Golconda Job Corps Wildland Fire Camp Crew to an incident in Nebraska this year. It was a great feat, students love it, and something our center and Don Brown from Golconda Job Corps intend to build on for 2013.

Because of the extremely busy fire season out west and the swath of destruction from Hurricane Sandy, our mobilization numbers were a bit higher than the last few years. ILC began mobilizing resources on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to the Mark Twain who was having an extremely busy year with wildland fires. Even though nationally we never reached a PL5, the center filled 95 individual, equipment and crew mobilizations resource orders (does not include crewmember resource orders) while making 112 flight arrangements.

The first wildland fire started on January 5<sup>th</sup> with the Lake of Egypt Fire Protection district requesting mutual aid from Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, the last wildfire was on the Shawnee National Forest at Garden of the Gods on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The Prescribed fire projects were one of our largest workloads this year with the first burn occurring on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Post Oak Flats) on January 4<sup>th</sup>, while the last one (other than pile burning by all agencies) was the Shawnee National Forests' Ashby burn on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The dispatch center generated 362 incident actions in 2012. The top 3 workload activities were: prescribed fire projects; Incident Resource Orders (incidents only, not individual resource orders associated with that incident); and wildland fire incidents (all agencies). The rest were made up of Law Enforcement activities, search and rescue, smoke checks, medical aids, aircraft activities, vehicle incidents, and miscellaneous activities (training, special weather announcements, etc.). This is about average for the center, however when you attach individual overhead, equipment and crew resource orders and travel arrangements, our biggest workload, as usual was resource mobilizations.

Our crew mobilizations were average with the Midewin Hotshots getting a late start due to hiring issues, but we still were able to mobilize them 8 times beginning in March with them spending 186 days on incidents. We also mobilized the first ever IL Interagency State crew. The majority of the crewmembers were state resources with the FS assisting with only 3 personnel. This was a huge accomplishment for the State and had been a goal for many years. With continued interest from State and Fire Department personnel, this could be a trend I'm sure they hope to develop.

A few things did slip through the cracks but hopefully will be completed in 2013. For example our goal of getting radio communications with Midewin ran into a few networking issues, however our radio Techs believe the kinks are worked out and 2013 is the year. Our goal to get cable is still on the agenda, but we are not holding our breath for 2013 unless one of the agencies can accommodate us.

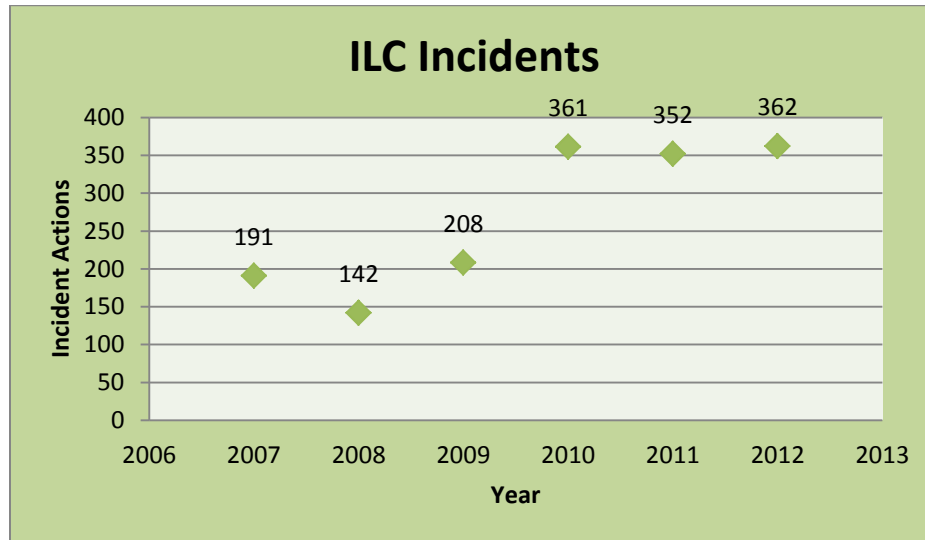
For many, the image of what a dispatch center does is truly different than what actually occurs. This yearly document gives a snapshot of what our year consisted of, but I also wanted to point out the behind the scenes work we do. For example, for the past 3 years we have kept the office open and functioning 365 days a year with 11 of those months providing 7 day coverage and 6 of those months with 10 hour day coverage, with 2.5 people (Myself, Jennifer, and Diana who is seasonal) all without additional funding. If we are closed on weekends, someone is always on call, if one of us gets sick, needs to go on annual leave, wants to take a fire assignment or go to training, the others cover. It is teamwork at its finest, one that has proven efficient, effective, and productive, and one we all are very proud of.

All in all 2012 was a normal dispatch year with a few obstacles thrown our way to challenge us. Even though budgets for all partners are uncertain, our continued cooperation and support to all agencies will be abundantly clear in 2013 and all agency partners can be assured that the Illinois Interagency Dispatch Center will continue to be of service in hopes everyone reaches their goals for the New Year.

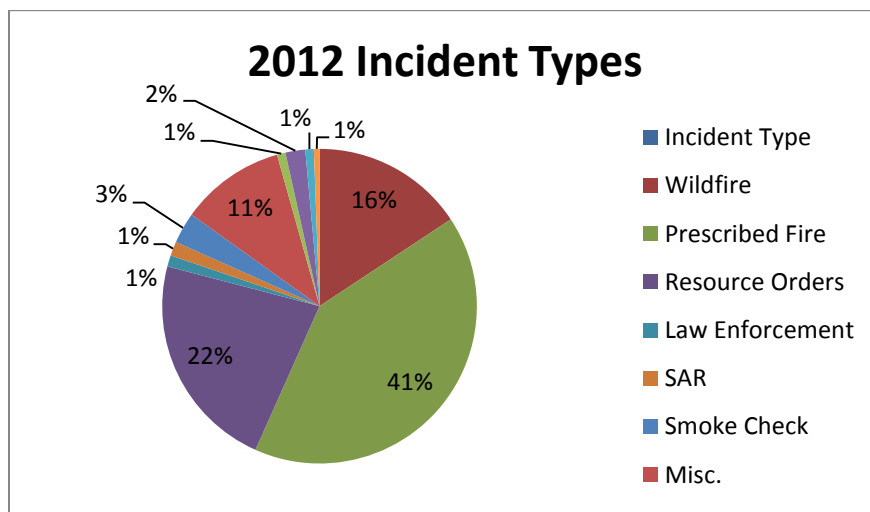
Molly, Jennifer, Diana

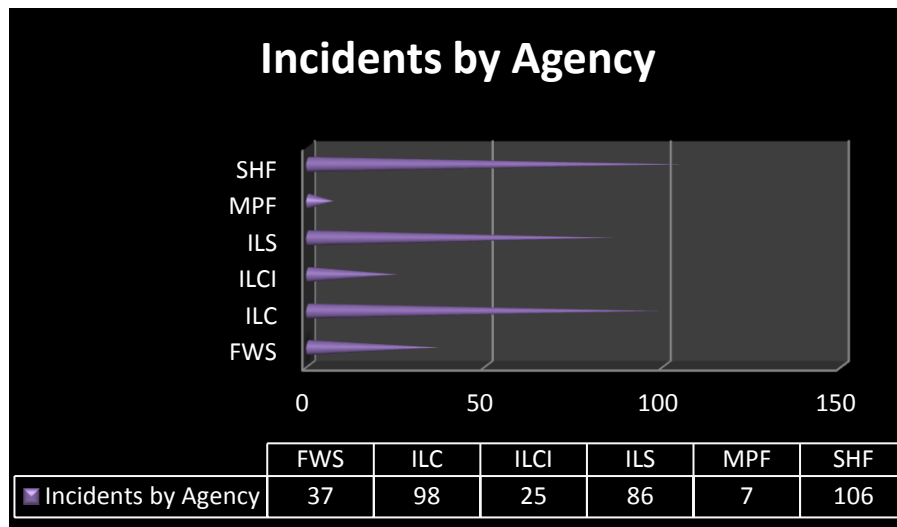
## ILC Workload and Activities for 2012

2012 was a typical year for activity in the dispatch center. The last three years were fairly steady with the workload, however in the breakdown of these incident actions you will see that prescribed fire activities kept us really busy (especially in the spring) in 2012, but rest assured that mobilizations are still our biggest workload throughout the year. In 2012, each incident we received was issued an “incident action number”, however it does not account for multiple resource orders for that specific incident, therefore the incident action numbers would be much larger if a number was issued for each individual resource order we received (maybe next year). All agencies participated in all aspects of the dispatch center, with the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Department of Natural Resources the biggest players and supporters.

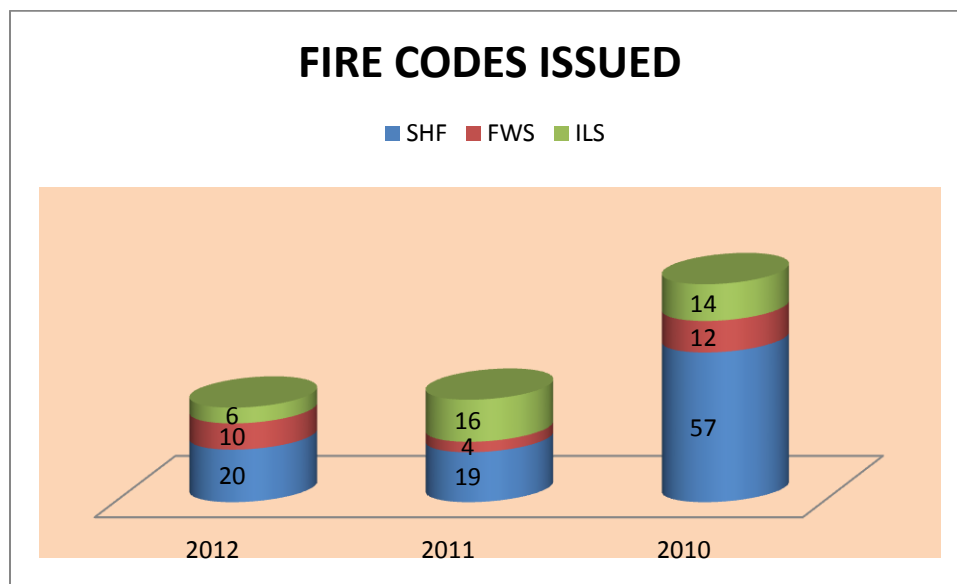


The breakdown of types of incidents the dispatch center identifies on this graph does not show a complete list of all we do. For example you can see that 11% of the work we do is lumped into Misc. This is because in the programs of WildCad we only have so many canned options to choose from, the rest we have to note as miscellaneous activities. These activities include, special weather announcements, tornado events, special Agency events, training, medical aides, vehicle assists only to name a few.





By issuing incident action numbers, we are able to track workloads by agencies. ILC (Illinois Interagency Dispatch Center) is designated to cover resource orders and miscellaneous activities not associated with a cooperator.



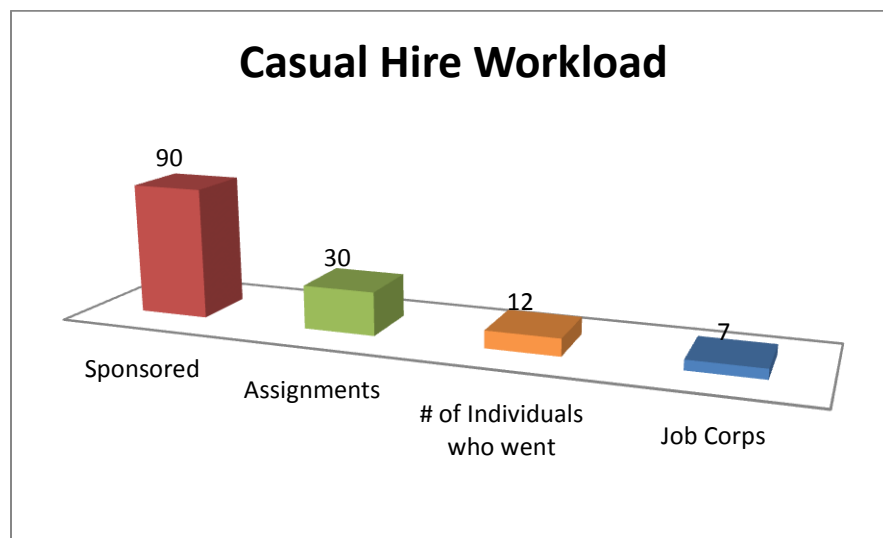
One of the things the dispatch center does when there is a wildland fire is issue a payment code. We first have to determine which agency is responsible for suppression of the fire. Once the determination is made on whose land the incident began on, we then have to retrieve a payment number, typically called a PCode. Once this has been issued and processed in agency programs, all personnel can begin charging their time and any other items which are incurred due to the incident.

## Casual Hires

The casual hiring program is a heavy workload in the dispatch center. Up until this year, the dispatch center did all the casual hiring for the Forest as well as the State, however this year the State DNR took responsibility for all State and Fire Department personnel leaving the dispatch center with the responsibility of only those individuals sponsored by the Forest. There is a large amount of work that goes into the process of hiring and then supporting the casual hire individuals throughout the summer. Besides the initial paperwork we have to process, we also complete and process their time sheets, their travel in GovTrip, and we also keep their

Incident Qualifications (RedCards) updated and current. Some individuals are not self-sufficient (which we are working at changing for 2013) which enhances the workload even further.

As you can see, with the participation of the Job Corps, the dispatch center supported a large number of individuals in the Forest's casual hiring program. In 2012 the Forest set forth new policies where we limited the number of individuals and individual qualifications which the Forest will sponsor. You can also see that with the number of assignments which were filled by casual hires, the majority were filled by the same person(s). So this tells me that there are a large number of individuals who sign up but do not participate on the level they said they would when they enrolled or there are only a few of our casual hires with the qualifications that are needed. Either way, it is a heavy workload, which we are working at streamlining more efficiently.

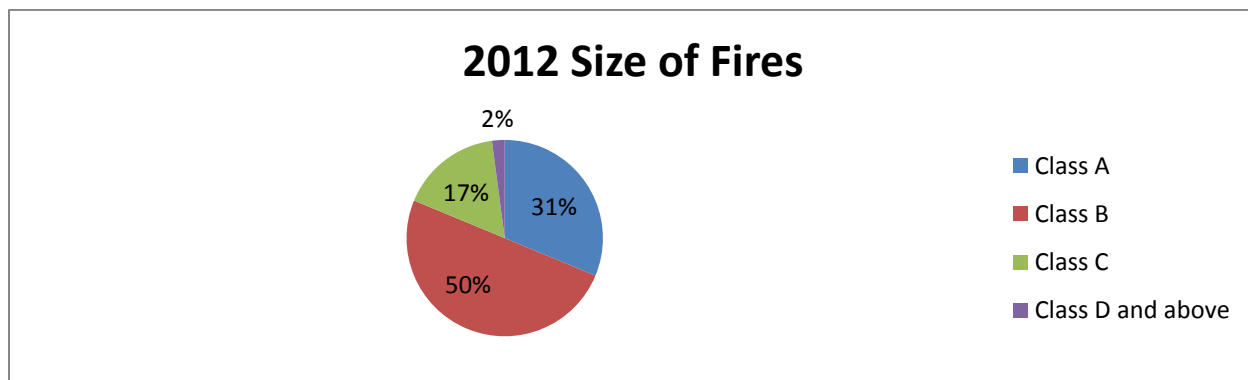


## WILDAND FIRE ACTIVITIES

Nationally, wildfire activities were high, however for Illinois and especially Southern Illinois, activity was rather low. We greened up earlier than normal, and we had a very wet fall. However it was the summer wildland fire activity which proved to be the most active for us. Due to drought conditions in the heartland (you can see on the rainfall graphs in the RX section), our fire activities and mutual aid activities were higher this summer than our dedicated fire seasons were. The fires did not get as big, but rest assured they did start and they did move. Predicted drought conditions for our area are to improve slightly in 2013.

	2010	2011	2012
Forest Service	57	31	24
Illinois DNR	17	5	6
Fish & Wildlife Service	11	3	11
Midewin Nation Tallgrass Prairie	1	1	0

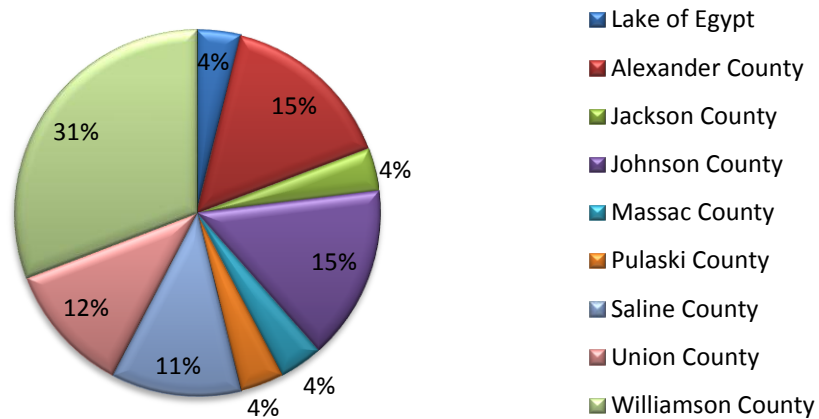
This graph looks at the last 3 years of wildland fire activity reporting for ILC. DNR typically turns in a large number of fires which fire departments throughout the state report to Tom Wilson; however these fires are only DNR land fires which were reported onto the National Situation Report through our center.



Due to the area we live, large wildland fires typical to out west are few and far between. Our average fire size, as you can see is in the Class B range .10 to 9.9

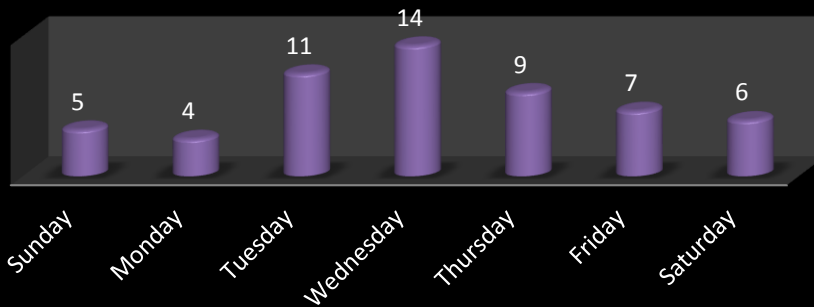
Wildland fire mutual aid assists have steadily increased throughout the years. This year we broke it down so we can see which counties utilize us the most with mutual aid requests. Williamson County is a big supporter of the mutual aid process however counties such as Alexander, Johnson, Union, and Saline are beginning to request our assistance more and more each year. ILC also works closely with many of the county 911 centers on Law Enforcement activities, search and rescues, and of course wildland fires.

## Wildfire Mutual Aid Assists 2011 - 2012

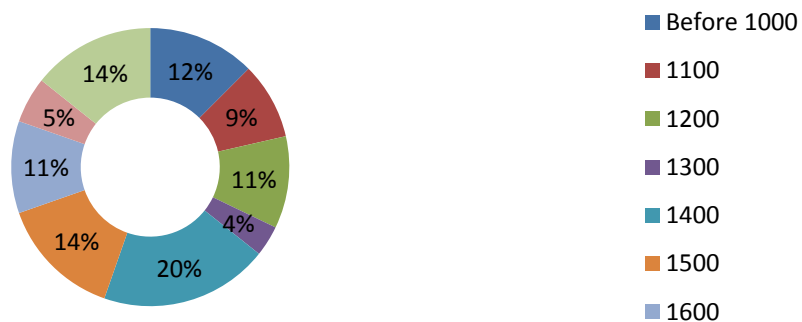


You would think that the weekend would be the busiest time of the week for initial attack fires however it is the middle of the week which keeps the fire units most active. The below graphs (does not include mutual aid requests), depicts the day of the week and times of the day which are the most active with new fires.

## Wildland Fire Occurrences All Agencies



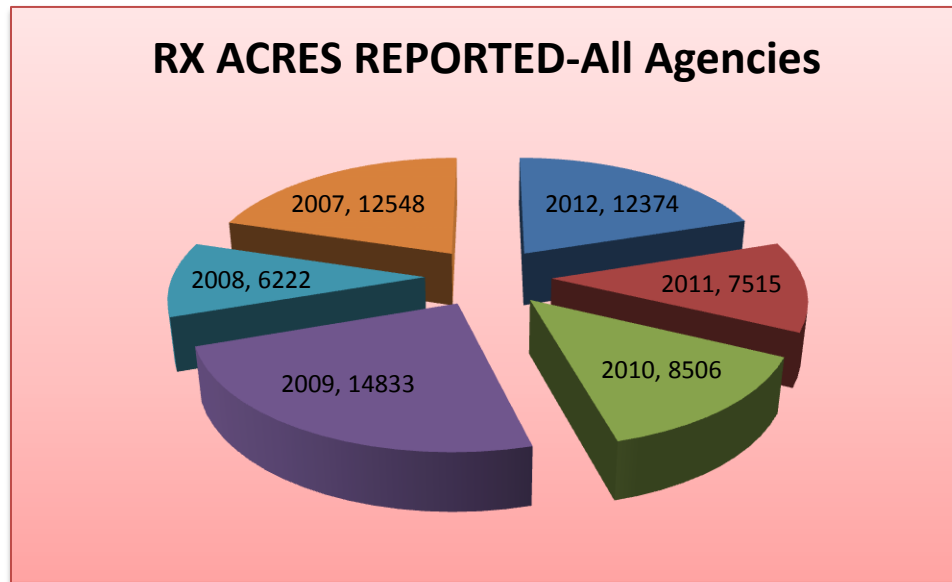
## Initial Attack of Wildland Fire



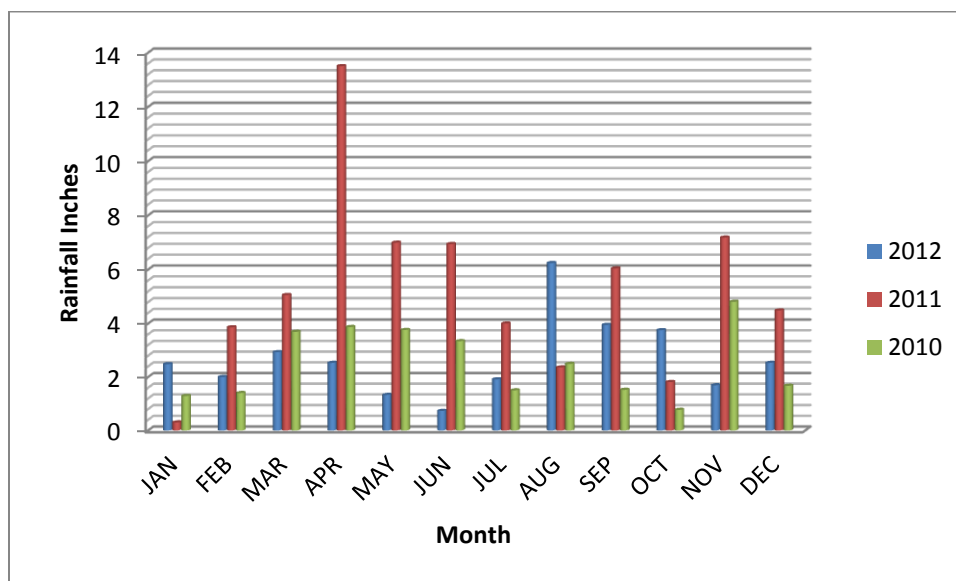


## RX FIRE ACTIVITIES

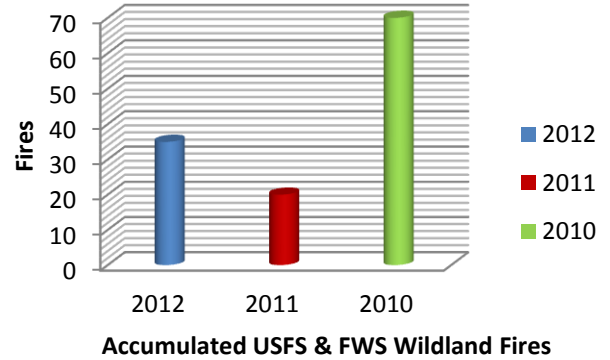
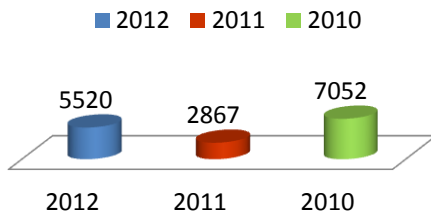
Prescribed fire activities started off the year with a bang, but ended with a thud. Even though there was early green up throughout the area, fire crews were able to complete a good number of acres in the spring which ended up being a great thing, because once the summer ended and fall reached Illinois, the rains came and basically pushed all agencies out of the prescribed fire business for the year. All in all this year ILC reported a total of 12,374 accomplished acres for all agency programs.



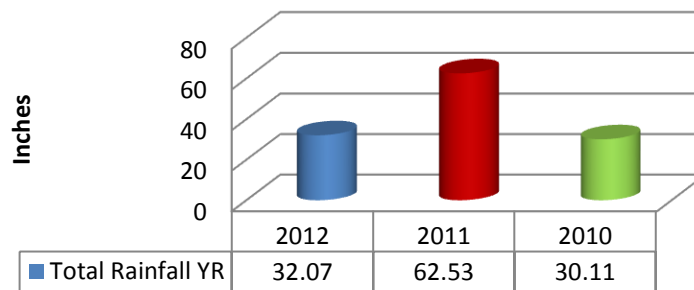
I also thought it would be interesting to see the correlation of rainfall to acres accomplished, as well as rainfall amounts and the number of fires which we reported. The first graph is the total rainfall monthly accumulations for 2010-2012. The bottom three graphs are the number of fires and the number of RX acres accomplished for the same years but only for the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. (Since the rainfall totals are for the local area only, I did not want to skew the graphs with information from outside of the immediate initial attack area).



## USFS & FWS Combined RX Accomplishments



## Total Rainfall



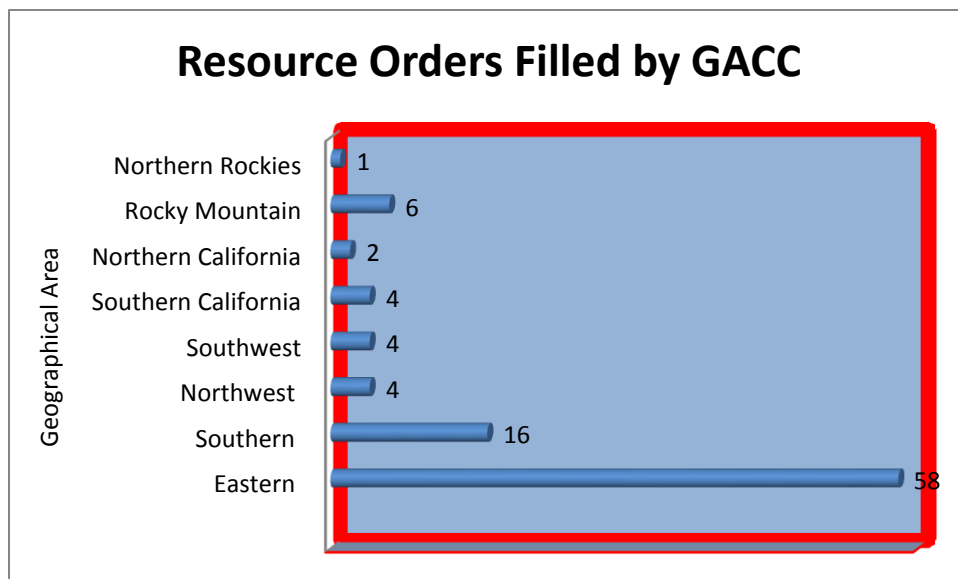
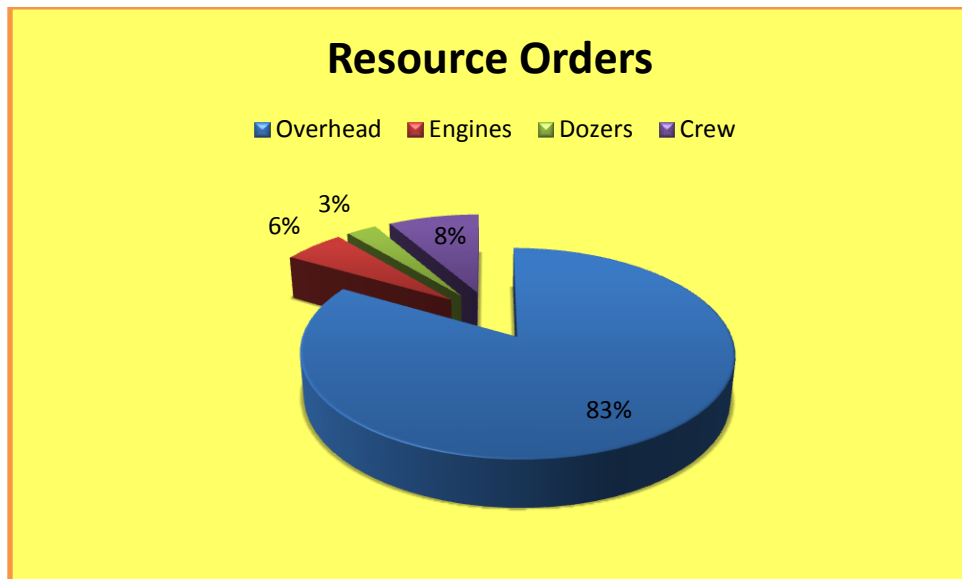
As you can see throughout the graphs, 2012 started off in good condition, therefore we were able to accomplish acres, but you can also see that the months of April, May, June, and July when we typically see abundance of rain, were below normal, therefore the increased number of summer fires. The fall rain which occurred, may not look like a lot, however it was the timing in which we received the rain. There were few drying days in between rain events which affected the opportunities for burning.

You can also see why the fall in 2010 was such a busy fire season.

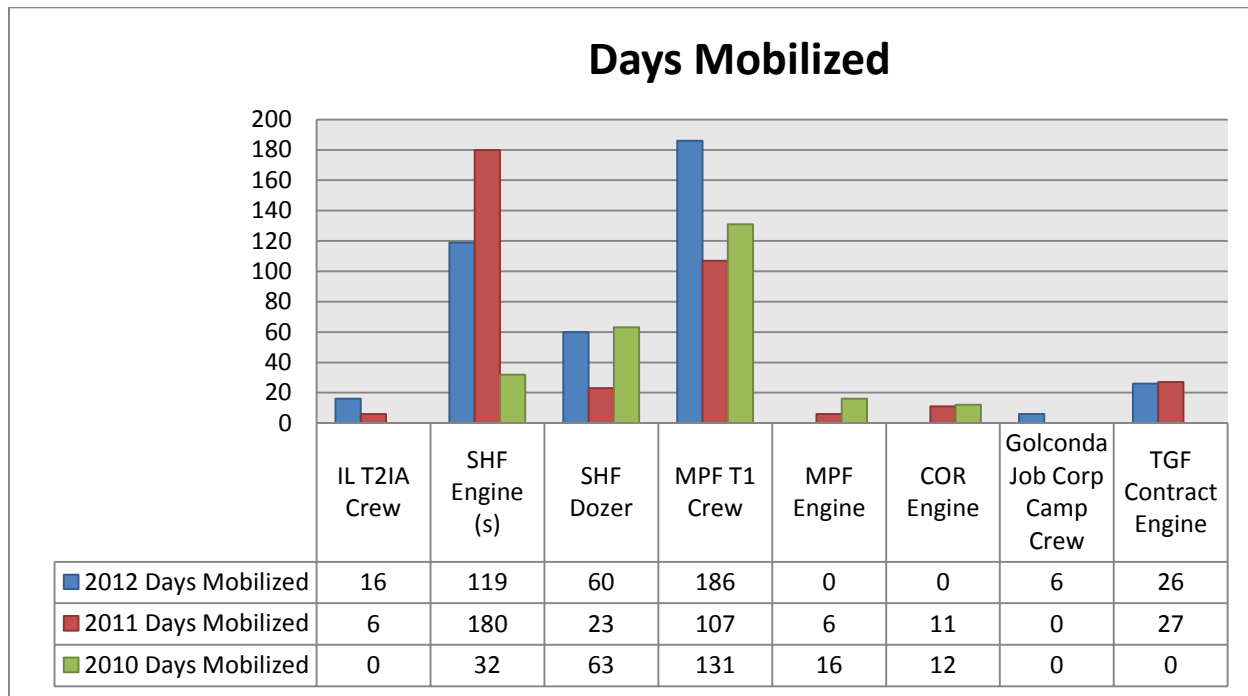
## Mobilizations through ILC

The agencies which the Illinois Interagency Dispatch Center provides support for are very good about assisting all areas of the country when there is a need for resources. 2012 was a busy year nationally and for our neighboring agencies. The dispatch center supplied crews, overhead and equipment all year to events from wildland fires to hurricanes. Individuals from all our agency cooperators stepped up and assisted by either sending equipment such as engines and dozers, to individual personnel covering 27 States in seven Geographical areas. It was a busy year.

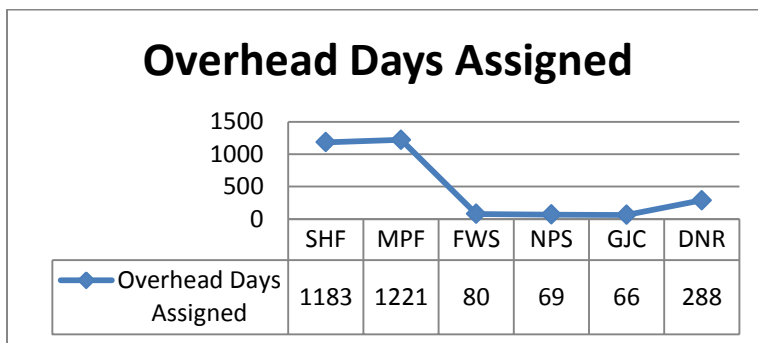
A large portion of ILC's workload comes from the mobilization of overhead, equipment and crews. ILC started mobilizing resources in early March to help out the Mark Twain and Huron-Manistee National Forests. Mobilizations continued to be steady through-out the year with our last large mobilization in November, when we sent Incident management team members and crewmembers to support Hurricane Sandy. As you can see our largest support was to our very own Eastern Area.



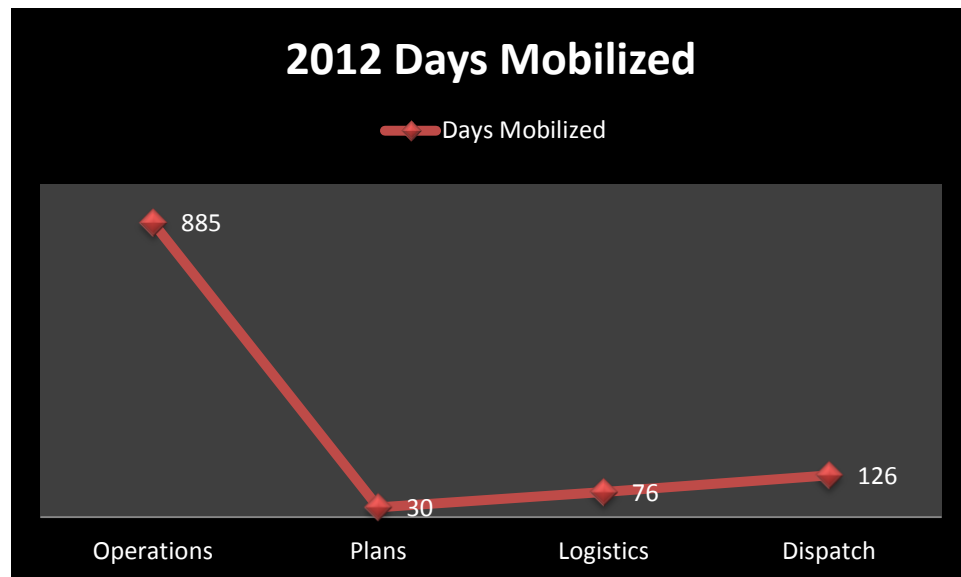
Sometimes it doesn't sound like a lot to fill 95 resource orders for a year, however when you look at the days which the resources were out and then further breaking it down to individual days assigned, you can see that impact which our agency personnel provide nationally to the wildland fire and all risk efforts. It is substantial.



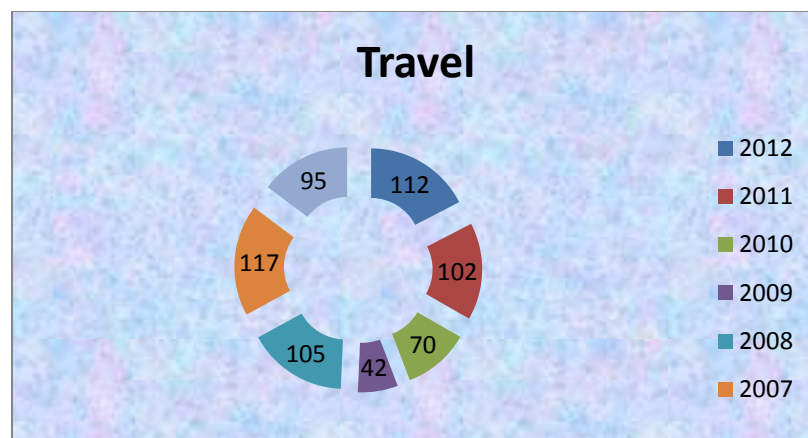
This graph gives a great snapshot of local resources and participation on a national scale for the last 3 years.



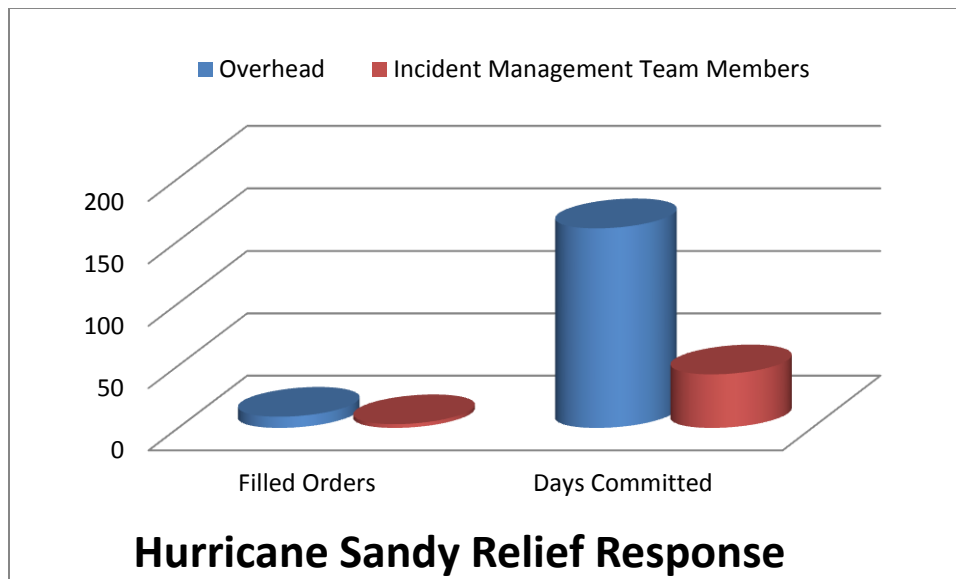
This graph complements the above graph breaking the down the total days spent by all personnel on incidents in 2012.



There has been a concerted effort by all agencies to increase individual qualifications in all areas, but especially areas other than operations. Agencies throughout the country have recognized critically needed positions in areas of Planning, Logistics, Finance, and Dispatch and are focusing efforts to increase participation in these sections in order to meet future needs. Locally our agencies have also recognized this need and are moving to increase training efforts in hopes to stay on top of this need



ILC processes a multitude of resource orders throughout the year. Making travel arrangements for individuals mobilizing is a large part of what we do in order to get these individuals to the incidents successfully and efficiently. Many times it is not the easiest thing for us to do, but we always try to meet the goals and needs of the incident which in turn does require individuals traveling to make compromises to their preferences. For example, we cannot always get folks out of the Marion Williamson county airport, therefore individuals have to adjust and drive to St. Louis. Not only do we make the flight arrangements, we also many times make transportation arrangements to and from the airport, we make motel reservations, and sometimes even meal arrangements. So the above numbers are just the flight arrangements we make, it is the behind the scenes work we do that is interjected into our workload which is not seen.



Incident Management Team Members and individual crew members were stationed in New York, West Virginia and New Jersey to help with relief efforts of Hurricane Sandy. Personnel mobilized through ILC helped clear roads and run supply depots for FEMA.

Requested Catalog Name	Enter	Delete	Place	Retrieve	Fill	Unfill	Reassign	Release	Cancel	Cancel UTF	UTF
Aircraft	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Crew	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment	9	1	1	0	19	0	1	9	0	0	1
Overhead	66	0	23	1	384	45	5	76	0	0	127
Supply	74	0	68	13	29	0	0	3	2	0	0
Summary	150	1	93	14	443	46	6	89	13	0	128

This chart, even though a tad confusing, really shows the volume of work associated with the Resource Ordering and Statusing System (ROSS). Each number you see is associated with a resource order received or created here at the dispatch center. With each number, we did some form of work (sometimes multiple times) on it, whether it was filling with an individual, crew or piece of equipment, or reassigning that individual, crew or piece of equipment from the original order to a new order. It could be once we filled the order the incident decided for whatever reason they no longer needed the resource so we had to retrieve or unfill the order. Or it could be we had to UTF (Unable to Fill) the order because none of our resources could go (after we called everyone qualified). But what it does not show is all the additional “behind the scenes” work we do with each individual resource order such as adding travel, documenting conversations, faxing additional paperwork (crew manifests), changing ETA’s due to delays in mobilizations, or initiating an emergency demobilization. Whatever the reason, the dispatch center’s workload in mobilizing resources to wildland fires and all risk incidents are much more than filling the order with a name.